

Andrew Jackson to Andrew Jackson, Jr., September 21, 1829, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO ANDREW JACKSON, JR.

Washington, September 21, 1829.

My D'r son, I had the pleasure this morning to receive yours of the 1st instant, and am happy to find that you and Mr Earle will be on about the 18th Proximo, and that all things on my farm are going on well. I regret to hear the great loss of horses and oxen, I would like to have a full statement on this subject, for if it has happened from neglect in the overseer, I will have a Just deduction from his wages. if not from neglect, but from unavoidable accident, then am I willing to submit to it, but if from mr Steels neglect, he as a Just man, will voluntarily make an offer of such deduction of wages, as he thinks this neglect has produced to me. god forbid, that if his neglect or acts has not been the cause of the losses sustained, if he offered it, I should not accept it. Therefore I have written mr Steel some time since on this subject and requesting a Just statement of the horses and oxen lost. This I want him to furnish, and you to bring on with you, that I may Judge myself of the matter. Stockly Donelson says his neglect produced this loss, as some of the oxen fell dead in the waggon halling grain from Winstons place.

I expected the result you name with Flora—she is a fine little girl, the daughter of my deceased friend and I esteem her much, but as I told you she has give herself up to coquetry and I warned you of the fact. treat her with all kindness, but I assure you I am happy at the result, as I seldom ever saw a coquett, make a good wife, and when you marry, if ever, I wish you to marry a lady who will make a good wife, and I, a good daughter, as my happiness depends much upon the prudence of your choice. Therefore

Library of Congress

I am happy you are clear of your little engagement with Flora, and all I have to request is, that you will ingage in no other without first obtaining my advice. I had no wish to interfere with your choice, and particularly when you stated, there had been some little engagement. you know I have counclled you from your childhood, to make no promises, or engagements, but what you punctually perform, therefore before engagements are formed, or promises made, it ought to be on mature reflection, and when made religiously performed. I will only add I am happy you are now free from all engagements and I trust you will keep so untill you advise with your father on this interesting subject on which your peace and happiness thro' life so much depends.

I have recd. a letter from *my friend* Genl Coffee This morning, which makes it necessary that Hutchings be brought on. he cannot be governed there, and he has got into such company as I am sure will not profit him much by their council. I have therefore said to Genl Coffee [to] furnish you \$500 for his expence here and his education during the ensuing year. I wish you to give Genl Coffee a special receipt as my agent as guardian for this five hundred dollars and when you give to Hutchings any Pockett mony out of it take his receipt and keep an exact acct of his expences hither. This is the last letter I will write you to Nashville. present my respect to Mr Earle and say I shall certainly expect to see him on with you next month. . . .